

Letters to the Providence Journal

117 Marion Avenue
McLean, Virginia

To the Editor:

As the result of knowing Bright M. Carper for nearly 20 years, and working closely with him on church affairs during part of that time, I am convinced that the voters of Dranesville District are fortunate to be privileged to vote for him for supervisor at the November 3 election.

Besides being a man of unquestionable integrity and sound, independent judgment, Bright Carper is a good watchdog of the treasury—something that anyone who has paid increasing tax bills over the years will agree that Fairfax County sorely needs. He does not oppose spending for necessary improvements, as his position on the proposed bond issues shows. But he has always insisted on getting a dollar's worth of goods or services for every dollar spent. For instance, his advocacy of combining the bond election with the general election, a position his opponent later adopted to avoid a "political issue," has saved the County around \$10,000, which would be the cost of a special election.

Some people have expressed the fear that Bright would be influenced by other members of the Carper family. An incident that occurred while he was running Sharon Farm, which was a family enterprise, should reassure them. One year there was a cold, wet spring, and he could not plant corn until late in June. Other members of the family objected that he was wasting money by planting at that late date. He disagreed, and put in his corn anyway, displaying what some of his relatives call his "stubbornness." His faith was justified, and at harvest time he had one of the best corn crops he ever raised. There have been other times when his decisions, based on his own judgment, went counter to the wishes of other members of his family. Enough of them to make it clear that although he can be convinced by arguments that strike him as valid, he cannot be dictated to by anyone.

As for apartments, I am sure that he does not wish to see them come any more than do any of us who prized the rural character this area retained until five or six years ago. However, he recognizes that the coming of the CIA and the Dulles International Airport, together with the network of new highways, ultimately will make apartment development of some kind inevitable. When that time comes, he feels that luxury-type apartments will bring greater tax revenue and impose fewer costs upon the County than will garden-type ones. His desire in respect to apartment development, as in respect to commercial and light-in-

dustry development, is to keep the tax burden on the individual household as low as conditions will permit.

The Board of Supervisors will face difficult problems in the next four years. By electing Bright Carper, we can make sure that our District will be represented by a man used to such problems. His election will give the best hope to those who, like my wife and I, have put down roots in Fairfax County and hope to remain here, but fear that rising taxes may force them to move elsewhere.

ALLEN B. MACMURPHY